

# ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME

## DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES

### NEWS RELEASE



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#### **FISHERY ANNOUNCEMENT**

#### **COOK INLET AREA STATE-WATERS PACIFIC COD SEASON**

#### **JIG GEAR LIMITS AND EXCLUSIVE AREA REGISTRATION RESCINDED**

#### **EMERGENCY ORDER # 2-GF-H-14-12**

Effective October 31, 2012, 5-jig gear limits and the exclusive area registration requirement are rescinded for the remainder of the 2012 Cook Inlet state-waters Pacific cod season. The Cook Inlet state-waters Pacific cod season will remain open to jig gear until December 31, 2012 unless closed by emergency order. The state-waters Pacific cod season will close to pot gear at 12:00 noon October 29 when the parallel season reopens. Approximately 480,000 pounds of the guideline harvest level (GHL) remains to be harvested. In accordance with 5 AAC 28.367 Cook Inlet Pacific Cod Management Plan, if it is determined that the GHL will not be reached by December 31, gear limits and exclusive area registration requirements may be rescinded, in order to increase harvest rate to achieve the GHL.

Although exclusive area registration is rescinded, **ALL** vessel operators must possess an area registration, which is now designated non-exclusive. Area registrations may be obtained from ADF&G offices in Homer, Soldotna, Anchorage, and Cordova. Fishermen must present a 2012 miscellaneous saltwater finfish interim use permit card in order to register.

Pacific cod may also be retained as bycatch in an amount not to exceed 20% of all directed groundfish and halibut onboard the vessel. Contact ADF&G in Homer at 235-8191 for additional information.

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